

## INTRODUCTION

1. Angelic & human interaction - [Rv 14:6-11](#)
2. 1<sup>st</sup> angel: "gospel warnings" - judgment then justice in FJ [Final Judgment].

**1st: An Introduction to Babylon - v8a**

1. Urgency as we near FJ. 2<sup>nd</sup> angel intensifies announcement of 1<sup>st</sup> angel.
2. Introduced to *Babylon*. Recall role played in OT: exiled Israelites & destroyed Jerusalem in 586BC. Defeated by Persians [539]: Cyrus permits return from exile & rebuilding of temple.
3. Leading up to the exile, prophets warned of Bab as punishment for idolatry. During exile, prophets call for pure worship. After return, prophets warn against apostasy. These prophecies speak to us in NCov. "Bab" represents oppression & the seduction of pagan idolatry,
4. 1<sup>st</sup> ref to Bab in Rv. Jn's pattern: intro then elaborate: Jesus; letters; *Holy City*; *Beast*. Now, another helper to Dragon: *Babylon*. 3 ways to interpret.
  - i. Literal, historical & geographical - Euphrates in 9:14 & 16:12
  - ii. [1Pt 5:13](#) code for "Rome" where Peter wrote to churches in Turkey [1:1-2]
    - a. See Rome [Rv17:9]: Emperor worship [AntiX]. Churches are aliens in Rm Empire as was Israel captives in Bab: idolatrous.
    - b. Roman/Bab paganism of Jn's day will recede & then resurge as we near Christ's return - "resurrected" Emperor worship [13:3,12,14].
  - iii. Xn is not a citizen of Bab: entices to compromise & threatens persecution. Seek Bab's welfare [Jer 29:7], yet furnaces & lion's dens [Rv 18:24].
5. [Isa 21:9](#) prophesy of destruction of Israel's enemies

**2nd: The Murderous Seductress - v8b**

1. Use of past tense verbs: Bab is intro'd as already defeated, destroyed.

2. Bab is female actor who influences *all the nations*: global culture of idolatry.
3. *made to drink* - 1C 12:13. Cause to experience; what sustains life [Jn 6:55].
  - i. 3rd angel addresses same people w/ Beast's *mark*.
    - a. [Rv 13:16-17](#); [Rv 18:3](#). People compelled by economic pressure
    - b. Ancient gods of Bab: *Bel & Marduk* - shattered [Jer 50:2; 51:47]
    - c. Modern Bab's idol? Mammon - Mt 6:24
  - ii. Mammon promises security = intoxicating wine of idolatry - Hos 4:11-12.
4. Why "murderous seduction"? How to translate *the wine of the passion of her immorality* [NASB, ESV, NET *her immoral passion*]: spiritual fornication
  - i. But term is not 'pathos' but 'thumos': rage, boiling anger, hot temper
  - ii. KJV: *the wine of the wrath of her fornication*
  - iii. Dennis Johnson: "her wrath [i.e. against Xns] wh/ accompanies her immoral idolatry". Anger against those who refuse to worship the idols of Bab's religion - [Rv 17:6](#); [18:24](#).
5. Which is it? seduction or persecution? [Jer 51:7](#)
  - i. Simon Kistemaker: *the wrathful wine* - paganism is itself the wrath of God
  - ii. Rm 1- revelation of present wrath that precedes the Day of wrath [Rm 2].
6. Bab is a "murderous" seductress b/c apostasy is lethal.

**Applic #1: Come to Terms With the Reality of Sin and God's Wrath**

1. How can we read Bible or speak of Jesus & neglect sin & wrath?
2. Thankful for the realism of Revelation - we are saved from wrath!

**Applic #2: Perceive Babylon's Certain Destruction**

1. Do not let Bab deceive you: she is a harlot - Prv 7:25-27.
2. *Fallen, fallen!* Doomed, doomed! Damned, damned! Dead, dead!
3. Do not be deceived. *Do not love the world* - rather, be loved by the God who is love who leads you in love & life in the truth: Jesus Christ.